

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the following claims:

1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended) A fluorescence observing apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~ having:
an excitation filter unit for transmitting only exciting light with particular wavelengths, of illuminating light; and
an absorption filter unit for transmitting only fluorescent light produced from a specimen by irradiating the specimen with the exciting light to block the exciting light,
wherein a space between a half-value wavelength on a long-wavelength side of the excitation filter unit and a half-value wavelength on a short-wavelength side of the absorption filter unit is in a range of 6-12 nm,
wherein the excitation filter unit has an ultraviolet cutoff filter formed on a base plate,
and
wherein variations in half-value wavelengths of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit where humidity is changed from 10% to 95% are within 0.5 nm.
- 3.-9. (cancelled)
10. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.
11. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multilayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 .
12. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, incorporated in an optical system of a microscope.

13. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, incorporated in an optical system of an endoscope.
14. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.
15. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, incorporated in an optical system of a microscope, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.
16. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 2, incorporated in an optical system of an endoscope, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.
- 17.-18. (cancelled)
19. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus having:
an excitation filter unit for transmitting only exciting light with particular wavelengths, of illuminating light; and
an absorption filter unit for transmitting only fluorescent light produced from a specimen by irradiating the specimen with the exciting light to block the exciting light,
wherein space between a half-value wavelength on a long-wavelength side of the excitation filter unit and a half-value wavelength on a short-wavelength side of the absorption filter unit is in a range of 6-12 nm, and

wherein variations in half-value wavelengths of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit where humidity is changed from 10% to 95% are within 0.5 nm.

20. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.

21. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 .

22. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 19, incorporated in an optical system of a microscope.

23. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 19, incorporated in an optical system of an endoscope.

24. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.

25. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 19, incorporated in an optical system of a microscope, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.

26. (previously presented) A fluorescence observing apparatus according to claim 19, incorporated in an optical system of an endoscope, wherein each of the excitation filter unit and the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of SiO_2 and Ta_2O_5 , and the

excitation filter unit and/or the absorption filter unit includes a multiplayer film comprised of at least 90 layers.